

U.S.S. HOLLISTER (DD-788)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HOLLISTER (DD 788)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) Ship's History for Calendar
Year 1972

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.



G. T. PHELPS

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USS HOLLISTER (DD 788)
SHIP'S HISTORY

As the year 1972 began, the USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) was at the Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, nearing the end of her 1.5 million dollar Fleet-In-Depth-Overhaul, which included structural repairs and overhauling main engines, generators, boilers, diesels, gun mounts, radars, communications, and steering equipment. The overhaul was completed on 23 February; HOLLISTER was declared ready for sea and began the complex training needed for the upcoming WestPac deployment.

28 March marked the beginning of the biggest part of HOLLISTER's training; departure for San Diego and five weeks of Refresher Training. Scores on the final battle problem were indicative of the crew's progress: Excellent in gunnery, Very good in Damage Control, and Good in Engineering and many of the Operations functions.

The final portion of the deployment preparation was devoted to the installation and testing of a new special weapons system, the SHRIKE-on-board.

On the morning of 30 June, the officers and crew of HOLLISTER said goodbye to home and began 1972's seven month combat deployment. In company with USS HENRY W. TUCKER (DD 875), USS RUPERTUS (DD 851), and USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7), she steamed for Southeast Asia with Commander Destroyer Squadron 29 embarked. Six through 8 July were spent in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; the group refueled at Midway Island on 11 July and at Guam on 18 July. The arrival at Guam had been delayed while the group evaded "Typhoon Tess".

After upkeep and refueling at Subic Bay, HOLLISTER began operations off the coast of Vietnam on 28 July. Her first assignment was in special operations in the "Northern Linebacker" area off North Vietnam. On the morning of 9 August, in company with USS ROBISON (DDG 12) and USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) she made a daylight raid on the heavily defended ammunition storage area in the vicinity of Hon Me Island. In what was later described as the most daring Destroyer operation of the war, the three ships destroyed the cache, took several hundred rounds of extremely accurate hostile fire, returning numerous rounds of counter battery fire. The Commanding Officers of the

three ships were subsequently awarded the Silver Star for that morning's action.

On 10 August, HOLLISTER successfully employed her SHRIKE-on-board in combat in a surface-to-surface mode, scoring a direct hit on an enemy radar site. For duty connected with the installation, test and evaluation, and combat employment of the special weapons system, HOLLISTER was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. She then went on to provide Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) for nine days, followed by escort duty for USS AMERICA (CVA 66). Finally, HOLLISTER escorted AMERICA into Subic Bay for an upkeep period.

On 5 September, the ship reported for "Southern Linebacker" operations, monitoring Chinese Communist shipping near Hon La, North Vietnam. HOLLISTER then escorted USS SARATOGA (CVA 60) for nine days, followed by an NGFS period that lasted a full three weeks.

October 11 brought the end of the long line period and departure for Singapore. The ship made a short side trip south across the equator on Friday, the 13th, so that HOLLISTER's pollywogs could enter the Domain of King Neptune. The new shellbacks found Singapore both relaxing and fascinating.

October 21 was the day of departure for another gunline period, this one lasting two weeks. November 7 and 8 were rough days, as Naval vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin avoided "Typhoon Pamela". There followed another "Linebacker" period of eight days, and then eight days of NGFS. During these operations the pace of the war was high, and HOLLISTER's crew spent long hours in combat and the laborious refueling and rearming runs that were conducted sometimes twice a day.

HOLLISTER then left the Gulf of Tonkin on 25 November, this time on course for Hong Kong for six days of leave and liberty. The Crown Colony was as usual a sailor's paradise, and all hands had a great stay. HOLLISTER next continued northeast to Japan, mooring in Sasebo on 7 December for upkeep. On 12 December, CDR W. H. KERSTING, USN, was relieved as Commanding Officer HOLLISTER, by CDR G. T. PHELPS, USN.

The ship completed the needed upkeep and once more on 16 December, took up duties as escort for SARATOGA, Christmas was spent planeguarding for the big carrier.

Then as the New Year approached, HOLLISTER returned to the gunline for her last NGFS action of the year and the deployment.

USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) fired nearly 14,000 rounds at enemy targets, and returned to CONUS with 5 multiple gunsite kills credited on her gunfire director. The ship received nearly three thousand rounds of hostile fire, with no personnel casualties or serious structural damage.

USS HOLLISTER (DD 788)

1972

01JAN-22FEB Overhaul, Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
 23FEB-27MAR Ready for Sea Status, Long Beach,
 with team training, ORI and TRE.
 28MAR-05MAY Refresher Training, San Diego.
 06MAY-28MAY Long Beach and Pacific Missile Range;
 install and test special weapons system.
 29MAY-29JUN Long Beach; standdown and upkeep
 prior to deployment.
 30 JUN Underway for WestPac.
 06 JUL Arrive Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
 08 JUL Depart Pearl Harbor.
 11 JUL Midway; fuel stop.
 14 JUL Enroute Guam, diverted for 24 hours
 avoiding typhoon.
 18 JUL Guam; fuel stop.
 22 JUL Arrive Subic Bay, Philippines for upkeep.
 26 JUL Underway for Vietnam.
 28 JUL Arrive Vietnam, begin special operations,
 "Northern Linebacker".
 14 AUG Begin NGFS operations near DMZ, Vietnam.
 23 AUG Leave gunline, assume escort duties for
 USS AMERICA (CVA 66).
 26 AUG Depart Gulf of Tonkin.
 29 AUG Arrive Subic Bay; upkeep period.
 05 SEP Depart Subic Bay.
 07 SEP Arrive Vietnam, begin duties monitoring
 Communist merchant vessel near Hon La,
 North Vietnam. ("Southern Linebacker")
 10 SEP Depart Hon La, assume duties as escort
 for USS SARATOGA (CVA 60).
 19 SEP Detached from SARATOGA, Begin NGFS near DMZ.
 11 OCT Depart DMZ for Singapore.
 13 OCT Cross the Equator.
 14 OCT Arrive Singapore for upkeep.
 21 OCT Depart Singapore.
 24 OCT Resume NGFS near DMZ, Vietnam.
 07 NOV Depart gunline to evade typhoon.
 09 NOV Return to Vietnam, Begin special "Line-
 backer" operations.
 17 NOV Resume NGFS duties near DMZ, Vietnam.
 25 NOV Depart Gulf of Tonkin.
 27 NOV Arrive Hong Kong for Leave and Liberty.
 04 DEC Depart Hong Kong.
 07 DEC Arrive Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.
 12 DEC HOLLISTER change of command.
 16 DEC Depart Sasebo.
 19 DEC Assume escort duties for USS SARATOGA (CVA60)
 30 DEC Resume NGFS duties near, near DMZ, Vietnam.